
MEDALS COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ADMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA INTO THE
UNION AS A STATE

JULY 2, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BYRD of West Virginia, from the Committee on Banking and
Currency, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 2099]

The Committee on Banking and Currency, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2099) to provide for the striking of medals in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the admission of West Virginia into the Union as a State, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The bill would authorize the Treasury Department to manufacture for and sell to the West Virginia Centennial Commission not more than 200,000 silver medals, to be made and delivered in quantities of not less than 2,000, but no medals would be made after December 31, 1963. The bill would also authorize the manufacture and sale by the mint to the public of silver duplicates of this medal upon authorization from the West Virginia Centennial Commission.

The medals would carry suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the West Virginia Centennial Commission, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. They would be struck and furnished at not less than the cost of manufacture, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses; and security satisfactory to the Director of the Mint would be required to be furnished to indemnify the United States for the full payment of such cost.

The Treasury Department has recommended the passage of the bill.

The reasons for the bill and the significance of the occasion which would be commemorated are set forth in a letter from the Senators from West Virginia, Messrs. Randolph and Byrd, which is printed as a part of this report.

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY,
June 29, 1959.

Hon. A. WILLIS ROBERTSON,
Chairman, Committee on Banking and Currency,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ROBERTSON: The Senate Committee on Banking and Currency has under consideration S. 2099, introduced by both Senators from West Virginia, which would authorize the creation of a national medal in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the admission of West Virginia into the Union as a State.

We respectfully urge that the committee take favorable action with regard to S. 2099, because we believe that the West Virginia centennial is an event of historical importance to all America, and that such a milestone is deserving of the issuance—at no expense to the Federal Government—of a national medal as described in section 3551 of the Revised Statutes.

The birth of West Virginia, and the first century of the State's existence, are a vital chapter in the continuing chronology of America. Ours was the only State born of the turmoil of the War Between the States, and West Virginia has long been a symbol of the terrible strife that divided our Nation. Throughout the ensuing years, West Virginia has healed the wounds of the war which brought her into existence, and has gone on to become a significant portion of the mighty panorama of America. From a rugged mountain wilderness, West Virginia has grown into a powerful industrial area which is linked inseparably with the well-being of our Nation. As America's foremost supplier of bituminous coal, as the center of a mushrooming chemical industry, as the storehouse of hundreds of vital natural resources, and for many other reasons, West Virginia is of prime importance to the rest of America.

Mr. Chairman, we feel that the historic origin of West Virginia, and the State's vital role in our Nation today, are of such significance as to make the centennial of the Mountain State fully worthy of the issuance of a national medal. Therefore, we again urge that the Committee on Banking and Currency look with favor upon S. 2099.

With kind regards, we are

Sincerely yours,

JENNINGS RANDOLPH,
United States Senator.
ROBERT C. BYRD,
United States Senator.